GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:688
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2003
PRODUCTION OF PLANTATION CROPS
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the production of rubber, coffee, tea and pepper in India during the last three years alongwith the area under cultivation and productivity of each commodity;

(b) the price obtained by farmers for these crops year-wise during the past three years;

(c) the action taken by the Government to solve the problems of farmers and workers of these plantations;

(d) whether poverty death have occurred in some plantations areas of Kerala; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and action taken in that regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) The production of rubber, coffee, tea and pepper during the last three years along with area under cultivation and productivity are given below:-

Year	Production (Tonnes)	Total Area (ha)	Productivity (Kg/ha
Rubber			
1999-00	622265	558584	1576
2000-01	630405	562670	1576
2001-02	631400	566558	1576
Coffee			
1999-00	292000	340306	947
2000-01	301200	346716	959
2001-02	300600	348995	937
Pepper			
1999-00	58280	192270	300
2000-01	63670	213870	300
2001-02	50800	215480	300
Tea			
1999-00	836510	490200#	1685#
2000-01	848360	507196#	1669#
2001-02	847250	510492#	1672#

Relates to Calendar Year 1999, 2000 and 2001

(b) Price obtained by the farmers for these crops during the past three years is given below:-

(Rs./Kg.)

Year	Rubber	Coffee #		Tea #	Pepper
	RSS-IV	Arabica	Robusta		
1999-00	30.99	81	60	72.79	NA
2000-01	30.36	80	40	61.71	174.24
2001-02	32.28	56	29	61.66	80.39

Relates to calendar year 1999, 2000 and 2001

(c) To safeguard the interest of the growers of rubber, Government has taken a series of measures which include market intervention operation through STC during 1997 to 2001, fixing and notifying the minimum price of rubber, continuing the ban on import of Natural Rubber even in the QR free regime and curbing surge in imports of NR by enforcing quality standards formulated by Bureau of Indian Standards on imported rubber also and restricting import of Natural Rubber through two ports viz. Vishakhapatnam and Kolkata only.

Concerned with the problems of the coffee growers, the Government has taken a number of steps for the benefit of coffee sector which includes re-phasing of loans availed by the coffee growers, providing 5% interest relief to small growers and 3% relief to large growers on the working capital loans taken by them from financial institutions, providing transport subsidy @ 50 paisa per kg. for reducing the handling cost etc.

To mitigate the problems of the growers of tea and workers of tea plantations, Govt. of India has set up three separate committees to look into the problems of farmers and workers of tea plantations in Assam including Tripura, West Bengal and Kerala, in the gardens which are closed, introduced Tea Marketing Control Order, 2003, formulated medium term strategy for boosting export of tea, launched domestic tea campaign to boost demand for tea besides restructuring the loans taken by the tea gardens and companies.

For increasing production and productivity of black pepper a centrally sponsored scheme on `Macro Management in Agriculture - Supplementing/complementing the States effort through work plans` is being implemented. The scheme provides flexibility to State Governments to prioritize the crops and interventions as required.

(d) No case of poverty death has been reported from plantation areas of Kerala.

(e) Does not arise.